

REMARKS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the Office Action mailed April 18, 2003. The Applicant further notes that an additional amendment would assist in further clarifying the subject matter over the art of record. More particularly, the Applicant sought further clarification that the Jaffe disclosure uses a superimposed 'special symbol' to allocate wildcards, whereas the present invention constructs the array of symbols with the sequential placement of groups of symbols.

Claims 1-18 are pending. The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, have been given careful consideration. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner include this supplemental response when considering the response filed on July 18, 2003, and allow the application.

Please note that the transmittal form submitted with the Office Action Response filed on July 18, 2003 inadvertently shows the first named inventor to be James Meyer, when in fact, it is Jason Meyer. Please make the necessary corrections.

Claims 1-18 are in Condition for Allowance

Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Jaffe

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Jaffe (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,432). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The present invention does not disclose a spinning reel game machine, the present invention constructs the array of symbols by the sequential placement of separate groups of symbols within the array. This is more visually interesting for the player and the game designer can build anticipation by drawing out the time taken to construct the array.

In contrast, the Jaffe patent constructs the array in an entirely conventional spinning reel manner. The special symbols are quite clearly additional to and superimposed on the array of randomly selected symbols. From the figures, it can be seen that as the special symbols move from one array position to another, the "base game" symbols do not alter and in fact the special

symbols appear not to completely obscure the base game symbols when they are superimposed. Thus, the Jaffe patent discloses a system for simply inserting wildcard symbols into the array in a manner that provides a level of visual interest to the player.

Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by the Jaffe Patent because Jaffe uses a superimposed 'special symbol' to allocate wildcards, whereas the present invention constructs the array of symbols with the sequential placement of groups of symbols. Thus, for the reasons set forth, claims 1-18 are not anticipated by the Jaffe Patent, and are in condition for allowance.

Also enclosed is a Recordation Form Cover Sheet changing the address of the Assignee. Please charge the \$40.00 recordation fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0902 (76867/20092).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. (76867/20092).

Respectfully submitted,

TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP

Date: 8/29/03


Susan L. Mizer
Registration No. 38,245
Customer No. 23380
1150 Huntington Building
925 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1475
(216) 696-3466 (phone)
(216) 592-5009 (fax)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 8-29-2003


Name: Valerie A. Salvino